

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 L-03 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7632

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 16511

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PINS, PGOV, TH

SUBJECT : PUBL

EMPLOYEES STRIKE, GAIN WAGE INCREASE

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION BANGKOK FROM CHIANG MAI, 23 OCT 73,
REPEATED NOW FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CHIANG MAI 374

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PGOV, TH

SUBJECT: PUBLIC EMPLOYEES STRIKE, GAIN WAGE INCREASE.

1. FOUR HUNDRED MUNICIPAL PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES STAGED
DEMONSTRATION AT CHIANG MAI WAT OCTOBER 22, DEMANDING RAISE
FROM CURRENT 12 BAHT DAILY RATE TO 15 BAHT. WORKERS ALSO
CALLED FOR OUSTER OF CHIANG MAI CHIEF ENGINEER.

2. AFTER SEVERAL HOURS' DEMONSTRATION, CHIANG MAI LORD
MAYOR TIM ARRIVED ON SCENE AND SAID 12 BAHT RATE WAS FIXED
BY NEW LABOR LAW AND DIFFICULT TO CHANGE. LORD MAYOR
PROMISED TO CALL URGENT CITY COUNCIL MEETING. WORKERS
STAYED PUT.

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3. EVENING OF OCTOBER 22 LORD MAYOR ANNOUNCED MUNICIPAL WORKERS' WAGES WOULD BE RAISED FROM 12 BAHT TO 14 BAHT PER DAY, TWITH GARBAGEMEN AND WORKERS WITH OVER FIVE YEARS SERVICE RECEIVING 15 BAHT. LORD MAYOR ALSO SAID CITY COUNCIL WOULD RECONSIDER POSITION OF CHIEF ENGINEER AND INFORM WORKERS LATER OF ITS DECISION. DEMONSTRATION DISBANDED.

4. COMMENT: ONE NEWSPAPER SOURCE SPECULATED TO US THAT DEMONSTRATION MIGHT HAVE BEEN BACKED BY ANTI-TIM GROUP WHO SAW HIM VULNERABLE NOW AFTER CHANGE IN BANGKOK. TIM WAS CLASSMATE OF PRAPHAT, LONG-TIME FRIEND, AND SERVED AS PRAPHAT'S RIGHT-HAND MAN IN LAST ELECTIONS HELD IN NORTH. LORD MAYOR SEEMS TO HAVE WEATHERED STORM FOR TIME BEING, HOWEVER, BY GIVING IN TO MOST OF WORKERS' DEMANDS. CASTRODALE
UNQUOTE
UNGER

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